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# A Study of an Aged Population within an Urban Setting
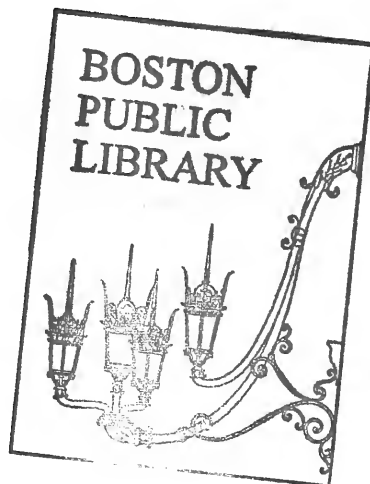
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A STUDY OF AN AGED POPULATION WITHIN AN URBAN SETTING

UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES OF METROPOLITAN BOSTON

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views with elderly residents of the "target area" in the summer of 1967. This provided a total of 101 interviews for BCOA research purposes.

Analysis of the data collected in all of these interviews revealed that the characteristics of the aged population in the BCOA "target area" of the Back Bay differed from those of comparable populations in the City of Boston and in the metropolitan area in several ways. The differences are such that we believe the publication of these data and the findings may be of value to social planners and practitioners.

OUTLINED AREA IS THE BCOA TARGET AREA

# INTRODUCTION

Data from the Community Research Project indicate that one out of every six adults in the Greater Boston area is aged 65 years or older. As a group, these people tend to have special problems and special needs, many of which are the inevitable outcome of old age. Frequently they face loneliness and isolation, failing health, deteriorating physical and mental abilities, a reduced standard of living and increasing financial dependency.

Not all older people, however, have the same problems, or the same needs. The purpose of this paper is to provide a general profile of some of the elderly residents of Boston's Back Bay and to determine if, and how, they differ from their counterparts in the city and the metropolitan area as a whole. A knowledge of these differences will have planning and program implications of particular importance to the Boston Centre for Older Americans, and should provide some insight into the social phenomenon of a group of elderly people with very similar tastes and characteristics, concentrated in a small section of a large city.

GENERAL PROFILE OF THE POPULATION

In order to provide a profile of the elderly population of the
"target area", a variety of factors were taken into consideration.
General characteristics such as marital status, age, sex and reli-
gion were considered. In addition, other factors which are related
to housing, social contacts, and attitudes toward the community and
toward retirement, were also examined.

Throughout the report, the "target area" group are sometimes
referred to as the "Back Bay" elderly. It should be remembered, however,
that the "target area" actually comprises only a part of the whole Back
Bay, although it contains just under half the total aged population in
the Back Bay.

## General Characteristics

Looking first at the general characteristics, one singular fact
emerges immediately--there were relatively few elderly married couples
living in the Back Bay (Table 2). Most of these elderly people were
not married, many having been widowed at some time, and about a quarter
had been single all their lives. By contrast in the city and the metro-
politan area, married couples formed the largest groups among the aged.

The size of a household is often associated with marital status,
but one might also surmise that a group of elderly, unmarried people
would tend to live together for companionship and financial reasons.
This is not the case, however. The majority of Back Bay households were
occupied by only one person (Table 3), whereas in the city and the metro-

politan area, the majority of aged households were occupied by at least
two persons.

Looking at marital status in terms of the number of people living
in the household (Table 4), it is apparent that a good majority of all
the unmarried people over 65 in the Back Bay were living alone. The
small group of married people shown in the table as living alone may
be explained in part by the fact that some older people have spouses in
nursing homes or other such institutions.

Differences in the age and sex distribution of the three groups
(Tables 5 and 6) were minimal. It is possible that the Back Bay elderly
as a group may have been slightly older and may have contained a slightly
higher preponderance of women. The differences are so small, however,
that they might easily be attributable to sampling variability and are
not significant.

One of the most striking characteristics of the Back Bay aged is their
educational background (Table 7). Most of them graduated from high school
and almost one-fifth received some form of college training. In light of
modern day educational standards this may not appear unusual, but it should
be remembered that most of these elderly people received their formal educa-
tions in the early decades of the century, when a high school diploma was
comparable to a college degree today. Certainly, the Back Bay elderly attain-
ed notably higher levels of education than the aged in the city and metropoli-
tan areas.

Education is frequently associated with income and we might expect that
the total family incomes of the "target area" group, in light of their
educational achievements, would be at least as high as those of the other

aged.  However, this does not appear to be so.

Table 8 shows that the Back Bay aged, with over half of them living on family incomes of less than $3,000, may have been slightly worse off financially than the city aged and considerably worse off than the aged in the metropolitan area as a whole.

The median family income of the Back Bay aged was $2800, compared with $3700 for the total metropolitan aged.  (For all families in Greater Boston, the average income is over $7000 per year.)

There is almost no difference among the three groups with regard to racial distribution--all groups were almost entirely white (Table 9). Differences in religious preferences, however, were more noticeable. While Roman Catholics comprised the largest groups among the other aged populations, the majority of the Back Bay elderly were Protestant.

This is an interesting discovery because the population of Boston City as a whole is predominantly Roman Catholic.  The proportion of Protestant adherents among the total population was 24 percent compared with 52 percent among the Back Bay aged.

There may be a number of reasons to explain why so many elderly Protestants should have congregated together in the one neighborhood.  It is not uncommon for people with similar backgrounds to live in one community, and possibly the location of the Mother Church of Christ, Scientist in the area may have some bearing.

It is also evident from the data that their Protestant faith is linked with the fact that most of these elderly people, unlike the other aged groups, were descended from families which had been in the United States three generations or longer (Table 11).  There were also considerably fewer foreign born

immigrants living in the area, when compared with the relative numbers
among the city and metropolitan aged。

The data on the general characteristics of the population provide
us with a clearly defined picture of a group of elderly people, well-
educated when compared with their contemporaries, the majority unmarried
and living alone。 Their incomes were not high and most of them carried
the Protestant heritage of their Yankee forebears。

## Housing

Boston's Back Bay, in general, is regarded as a high rent area of
large apartment blocks and boarding houses, office buildings and commercial
structures。 There are very few single family homes in the area. Under
such circumstances, it is not surprising to find that almost the entire
aged population in the "target area" lived in rented quarters (Table 12)。
In the metropolitan area on the other hand, almost two-thirds of the elderly
occupied privately-owned homes。

Most of the Back Bay aged were living in apartments and many, as we
have seen, lived alone, whereas the majority among the other aged groups
lived in detached single or multi-family houses (Table 13)。

Interviewers who carried out the survey were asked to rate the quality
of the housing in which the elderly person lived (Table 14). Little dif-
ference was seen between the quality of the Back Bay housing and that in
the city as a whole--the largest group were considered "generally sound"。
The metropolitan ratings, however, were somewhat higher overall。

Compared with the city and metropolitan aged, very few of the Back Bay
elderly had lived in the same house for more than forty years (Table 15)。

Half of them had moved into their present home within the last ten years.
Moreover, the majority of the elderly Back Bay residents did not plan on
staying in their present accommodation indefinitely and many expected
that they might move within the next two years (Table 16).

This seeming lack of residential stability on the part of elderly
people is interesting, particularly when compared with the much higher
degree of permanency indicated by the other aged groups, about three-quar-
ters of whom had no plans to move at all.

Renters, as a whole, are more likely to move than people who own their
own home, but it is also possible that the projected plans of the Back Bay
aged were influenced by their awareness that the section of the city in
which they were living was in the middle of a large urban renewal project.
Many of the old apartment houses occupied by these people were scheduled for
demolition and the tenants faced relocation within the next two or three
years.

## Attitudes toward the Community

This study does not purport to investigate the reasons for which older
people move. We may assume, however, that a person's reasons for moving are
associated with his attitude toward a community or neighborhood.

Among elderly people, job-oriented factors will probably play a minor
role in their choice of accommodation, while location and economic considera-
tions will perhaps feature more prominently. To the elderly in the "target
area", it appears that the location of the Back Bay was the most important
issue.

Table 17 shows what elderly people considered to be some of the good
things about living in their neighbordhood. The most favorable aspect of the

"target area" as seen by its elderly residents, was its location, its convenience to shopping, to churches and synagogues, and particularly to public transportation systems.

People-oriented reasons, such as the desire to be near family and the sociability of friends and neighbors, appeared to be relatively unimportant to the Back Bay elderly. Economic reasons featured so insignificantly as to be negligible--this is true of all the aged groups.

Among the city and metropolitan aged, people-oriented factors were considered the most desirable aspect of living in the neighborhood.

Asked what they felt could be done to improve their neighborhoods (Table 18), some obvious differences in opinion emerged between the "target area" group and the others. The need for community protective services, chiefly extra police protection, featured very strongly among the Back Bay aged, as did a concern with intergroup relations and delinquency in the area.

Concern with improved housing and property maintenance, lower rents and slum clearance etc., appeared to be the major tangible concern of the city aged, while the metropolitan aged expressed more interest in local government than the Back Bay group.

All three groups expressed a strong need for improved public services such as street cleaning and maintenance.

## Attitudes toward Retirement

Not so many years ago, retirement was viewed by many people as the curtailment of one's active, working life. Today there is a growing awareness that retirement does not necessarily go hand in hand with a rapid

decline in life, and that people who have led active lives can continue to be active and productive in their later years.

The Back Bay elderly appear to be a case in point. Their choice of retirement activities, coupled with certain aspects of their former occupational status, suggests that even after retirement they retained an active and intellectually inquiring attitude toward life.

Three factors distinguish the present and former employment status of the Back Bay elderly from that of their counterparts in the city and metropolitan area.

Firstly, among the "target area" group, there had been a much greater participation in the labor force than was found among the other aged (Table 19). Three-quarters of the Back Bay aged had been in the labor force, compared with about half in the city and metropolitan areas.

This difference is possibly attributable to differences in marital status between the three groups. Many of the Back Bay elderly, men and women alike, were not married. Consequently, they were probably obliged to work to support themselves.

Secondly, it is apparent from Table 19 that the Back Bay aged were more likely to have been employed in the upper occupational categories than their contemporaries.

Finally, looking at those who had retired and their reason for doing so (Table 20), three-quarters of the Back Bay group were retired at the time of interview, compared with about half of the other aged groups. More-over, the majority of those who were retired had done so for reasons of ill-health, or because it was compulsory rather than voluntary.

Thus we see that up to retirement age, the majority of the Back Bay elderly had worked most of their lives, many in the more intellectually

demanding types of occupation. Forced largely by job requirements or poor health to go into retirement, they appear to have channeled their energies into a variety of retirement activities.

A glance at the reasons for which people look forward to retirement (Table 21) shows some differences between the "target" group and the others. Essentially, the Back Bay elderly were likely to regard their retirement years as a period in which to express their independent natures by being their own boss, to pursue their cultural tastes through reading and studying, and to broaden their horizons through travel.

On the other hand, elderly people in the city and the metropolitan area expressed greater interest in spending time with their families, doing things around the house and watching television.

## Social Contacts

As a person advances into old age, families move away, friends and contemporaries die, and social contacts with other people tend to diminish. For an older person, it becomes increasingly difficult, both physically and emotionally, to get out and make new friends and contacts.

The Back Bay elderly, however, do not appear to have been hampered in their social lives either because of age or because they were living alone.

Like the aged in the other areas, about half the "target area" group claimed to have really close friends--people in whom they could confide and with whom they could discuss problems (Table 22). However, among the Back Bay group, there was a considerably higher rate of visiting with these friends than was found among the other groups (Table 23). Three-fifths said they got together with friends at least once a week,

often more frequently, compared with less than half of the other
aged groups.

Possibly this closer contact with friends might be interpreted
as compensation for lack of family and relatives in the Boston area.
Two in every five elderly Back Bay residents had no relatives in the
area (Table 24). This is much higher than the rate of about one in
ten found among the other groups.

It appears, however, that even those in the Back Bay who did have
relatives in the area, tended to visit them less often than did the
other aged groups.

A lack of nearby accessible relatives might lead one to expect
that the Back Bay group had relatives in other cities, not in the Boston
area. This does not appear to have been the case either. Table 25 shows
that there were similar proportions in all groups with relatives outside
the Boston area and that the rate of visiting them was similarly infre=
quent.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from these data is that the Back
Bay elderly were an independent, sociably inclined group, who frequently
sought out the company of chosen friends. Living alone does not neces=
sarily imply loneliness or isolation, and we might assume from the fore=
going data that the Back Bay provided them with a suitable setting in
which to pursue their individual life styles.

SUMMARY

In the last few decades the number of elderly people in the United States has increased rapidly. At present there are over 18.5 million people aged 65 or older. Concern over the continued expansion of this group centers around the problems which accompany old age – both physical and psychological.

As evidence of this concern, we have witnessed the development of large-scale federal programs to assist the elderly, with similar efforts at both state and local levels. One small aspect of this overall national endeavor is the Boston Centre for Older Americans with its program in the Back Bay of Boston.

All of these programs are faced with the problem of determining the characteristics and needs of the group they intend to serve, if their programs are to be effective. Planning services for the elderly and designing an appropriate delivery system for them is frequently carried out on the basis of preconceived assumptions about the elderly, their needs, attitudes, values and behavior. In spite of our increasing body of knowledge about the elderly, planning is still frequently based on popular stereotypes or minor modifications of them.

This report focused attention on gaining insight into selected characteristics, attitudes and experiences of the elderly population in the Back Bay and on comparing them with the other elderly in Boston and its surrounding metropolitan area. Its purpose was to determine whether the elderly as a whole were a fairly homogeneous group along the lines of inquiry or whether there were marked differences among elderly in different areas.

In summary, we have found that the Back Bay elderly differed from their
counterparts in the rest of the city and throughout the metropolitan area in
the following ways.

1. The majority were unmarried and lived alone.
   They were better educated than the other aged
   groups, but their incomes appear to have been
   somewhat lower. Most of them carried the
   Protestant heritage of their Yankee forebears
   in contrast to the Roman Catholic majority
   among the city and metropolitan elderly.

2. They were "renters" rather than "owners."
   Their housing was comparable to that of other
   elderly in Boston but of somewhat poorer quality
   than that of the elderly in the suburbs. While
   somewhat more mobile than other elderly, most had
   lived in their present quarters for ten years or
   more. They did not view their present quarters
   as permanent, however, and many expected to move
   in the next two years.

3. While other elderly saw their present residence
   as being desirable because of closeness to fam-
   ily and friends, the Back Bay elderly were pleased
   with their neighborhood because of location, its
   convenience to shopping, to churches and particu-
   larly to public transportation. The Back Bay
   elderly were concerned about police protection
   and safety in the streets to a greater extent than
   the elderly in Boston as a whole, who were concern-
   ed about improved housing, property maintenance, low-
   er rents and slum clearance, and than those in the
   suburbs, who were more concerned with such things as
   local government.

4. The Back Bay elderly were much more likely to have
   been in the labor force than the other aged, and were
   more likely to have been employed in the upper occu-
   pational categories. At the time of interview, the
   Back Bay elderly were also more likely to have been
   retired when compared with the other aged groups.

5. Compared with the other aged groups, the Back Bay
   elderly had notably fewer relatives in the Boston
   area, and visited with friends in the area considera-
   bly more frequently.

This report on the aged population in the Back Bay will be used in the planning and development of appropriate services by the Boston Centre for Older Americans. At the same time it provides an opportunity to compare users of the BCOA with the Back Bay elderly in general to determine the degree of fit between these two groups.

However, we believe that this study serves a wider purpose by illustrating the need for social planners to be aware that the characteristics of the population of any large urban or metropolitan center can vary considerably within relatively small sections of the community. One of the implications of this study, therefore, is that thorough research should be regarded as an essential pre-requisite in the planning and development of social service programs for the elderly. Research and planning are not separate entities but rather are complementary aspects of a single, overall function.

TABLE 1

PERCENT OF POPULATION 65 YEARS AND OLDER IN THE BACK BAY BY CENSUS TRACTS
(1960 U.S. Census)

| Area Total | | Back Bay Census Tracts | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | J-3 | J-4 | J-5 | K-3 | K-4A | K-4B | K-5 | S-1 |
| 1960 Population | 47,587 | 2,379 | 2,952 | 7,979 | 6,686 | 6,419 | 8,685 | 6,137 | 6,350 |
| Pop. 65 & over | 7,145 | 676 | 597 | 1,820 | 878 | 510 | 1,289 | 961 | 414 |
| % 65 & over | 15.0 | 28.4% | 20.2% | 22.8% | 13.1% | 7.9% | 14.8% | 15.7% | 6.5% |

Source:  U.S. Census of Population 1960; PC(1), 23D Massachusetts, Detailed
        Characteristics

TABLE 2

MARITAL STATUS OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Marital Status | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Married | 29% | 42% | 51% |
| Single | 26 | 15 | 9 |
| Widowed | 32 | 39 | 38 |
| Divorced or separated | 13 | 4 | 2 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 3

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS CONTAINING AGED IN GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Number in Household | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| One | 58% | 31% | 20% |
| Two | 30 | 42 | 48 |
| Three or more | 12 | 27 | 32 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD BY MARITAL STATUS OF THE AGED POPULATION OF "TARGET AREA"

| Number in Household | Marital Status | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Married | Single | Widowed | Divorced/Separated |
| One | 12% | 74% | 68% | 81% |
| Two | 67 | 6 | 18 | 19 |
| Three or more | 21 | 20 | 14 | * |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=30) | (N=30) | (N=31) | (N=10) |

* Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 5

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Age | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 65-69 | 34% | 37% | 38% |
| 70-74 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
| 75-79 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 80 or more | 21 | 17 | 15 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 6

SEX OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Sex | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 37% | 40% | 42% |
| Female | 63 | 60 | 58 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 7

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HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED BY THE AGED POPULATION
OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

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| Level of Education | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to 8th grade | 30% | 48% | 37% |
| 9th to 11th grade | 10 | 14 | 20 |
| High school graduate | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| High school graduates and non-graduates with technical training | 25 | 13 | 14 |
| 1-4 years of college | 13 | 7 | 10 |
| Graduate degree | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Not ascertained | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 8

TOTAL FAMILY INCOME OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA (a)

| Income | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Less than $3000 | 55% | 54% | 41% |
| $3,000-5,999 | 36 | 30 | 32 |
| $6,000-9,999 | 1 | 10 | 15 |
| $10,000 or more | 8 | 6 | 12 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=86) | (N=217) | (N=1045) |

(a) In all three populations there were approximately one in five families for whom income was not ascertained; these families have been omitted from Table 8.

TABLE 9

RACE OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Race | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| White | 91% | 90% | 96% |
| Negro | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Other | 1 | * | * |
| Not ascertained | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 10

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RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA (b)

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| Religion | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roman Catholic | 35% | 58% | 46% |
| Protestant | 52 | 27 | 43 |
| Jewish | 11 | 13 | 9 |
| Other | * | 2 | 2 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | * | * |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

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* Less than 0.5 percent
(b) The "Other" category includes religions other than those specified as well as uncommitted respondents.

TABLE 11

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GENERATION ON FATHER'S SIDE OF FAMILY FOR THE WHITE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

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| Generation | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| First generation (respondent foreign born) | 25% | 42% | 31% |
| Second generation (father foreign born) | 15 | 22 | 24 |
| Third generation or later | 51 | 30 | 39 |
| Not ascertained | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=96) | (N=277) | (N=1295) |

TABLE 12

WHETHER DWELLING UNIT WAS OWNED OR RENTED BY THE AGED POPULATION
OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Own or Rent | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Privately-owned house | 3% | 41% | 63% |
| Rented quarters | 95 | 56 | 35 |
| Other arrangements | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Not ascertained | * | 1 | * |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than $0.5$ percent

TABLE 13

TYPE OF STRUCTURE IN WHICH THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA LIVED

| Type of Structure | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Detached single family house | 1% | 17% | 47% |
| Apartment house | 83 | 31 | 14 |
| Detached two-to-four family house or row house | 7 | 49 | 36 |
| Other | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | * | 1 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than $0.5$ percent

TABLE 14

QUALITY OF HOUSING OF THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA
AS RATED BY INTERVIEWER

| Quality of Housing | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dilapidated or deteriorating | 25% | 28% | 17% |
| Generally sound | 47 | 50 | 52 |
| Excellent | 25 | 19 | 31 |
| Not ascertained | 3 | 3 | * |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 15

HOW LONG THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA HAD BEEN
LIVING IN PRESENT HOUSE

| Length of Residence | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Less than 10 years | 50% | 39% | 34% |
| 10-40 years | 47 | 46 | 57 |
| More than 40 years | 3 | 15 | 15 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 16

WHETHER THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA PLANNED TO LIVE IN
PRESENT HOUSE INDEFINITELY

| Whether Planned to Stay | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 44% | 71% | 76% |
| May move sometime | 10 | 5 | 6 |
| Expect to or might move in next 2 years | 44 | 24 | 17 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | * | 1 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 17

GOOD ASPECTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD AS SEEN BY THE AGED POPULATION OF
GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Neighborhood Assets | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| People-oriented reasons | 8% | 31% | 31% |
| Community composition and inter-group relations | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Location and transportation | 46 | 23 | 20 |
| Physical and geographic | 11 | 14 | 17 |
| Municipal services | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Leisure, recreation, entertainment | 6 | 1 | * |
| City government | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other reasons | 17 | 17 | 18 |
| Not ascertained | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 18

COMMUNITY NEEDS AS SEEN BY THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Community Needs | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Protective services | 17% | 4% | 2% |
| Public services | 20 | 14 | 17 |
| Schools, libraries, education | * | 2 | 2 |
| Recreation, entertainment | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Economic aid | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Inter-group relations | 16 | 2 | 1 |
| Housing, property improvements | 9 | 22 | 12 |
| Local government | * | 4 | 9 |
| Intangible, miscellaneous | 28 | 28 | 30 |
| Not ascertained | 6 | 16 | 14 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 19

FORMER OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Former Occupation | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Professional and managerial | 20% | 7% | 11% |
| Clerical and sales | 22 | 8 | 8 |
| Skilled and semi-skilled | 18 | 22 | 20 |
| Unskilled | 15 | 15 | 9 |
| Not in labor force | 24 | 45 | 51 |
| Not ascertained | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 20

REASONS FOR RETIREMENT AS EXPRESSED BY AGED POPULATION
OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Reason for Retirement | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Not retired | 25% | 45% | 50% |
| Compulsory retirement | 26 | 19 | 17 |
| Poor health | 21 | 14 | 12 |
| Job too tiring | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Could afford to retire | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| Needed at home | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Job ended, business folded | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 21

VIEWS ON SOME RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES BY THE AGED POPULATION
OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Preference for Retirement Activity | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Spend more time with children or grandchildren** | | | |
| Yes | 19% | 35% | 34% |
| No | 79 | 61 | 63 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| **2. Do things around the house** | | | |
| Yes | 44 | 56 | 57 |
| No | 54 | 40 | 40 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| **3. Be own boss** | | | |
| Yes | 45 | 33 | 30 |
| No | 53 | 63 | 67 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| **4. Chance to travel** | | | |
| Yes | 47 | 32 | 34 |
| No | 51 | 64 | 63 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| **5. Read and study** | | | |
| Yes | 62 | 45 | 44 |
| No | 36 | 51 | 54 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 4 | 2 |

(TABLE 21 - CONTINUED)

| Preference for Retirement Activity | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. Watch television- | | | |
| Yes | 38 | 53 | 52 |
| No | 58 | 43 | 46 |
| Not ascertained | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 22

WHETHER THE AGED POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA HAD REALLY CLOSE FRIENDS

| Whether Had Close Friends | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 56% | 57% | 56% |
| No | 42 | 40 | 42 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 23

FREQUENCY OF VISITS WITH FRIENDS FOR THE AGED POPULATION
OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Frequency of Visits | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| More than once a week | 40% | 27% | 28% |
| About once a week | 20 | 19 | 21 |
| At least once a month | 19 | 18 | 23 |
| Less than once a month | 16 | 26 | 23 |
| Have no friends at all | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Not ascertained | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 24

FREQUENCY OF VISITS WITH RELATIVES IN THE BOSTON AREA FOR THE AGED
POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Frequency of Visits | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| No relatives in Boston area | 42% | 13% | 13% |
| More than once a week | 7 | 38 | 38 |
| About once a week | 12 | 19 | 20 |
| At least once a month | 17 | 15 | 17 |
| Less than once a month | 19 | 12 | 11 |
| Not ascertained | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

TABLE 25

FREQUENCY OF VISITS WITH RELATIVES NOT IN THE BOSTON AREA FOR THE AGED
POPULATION OF GREATER BOSTON AREA

| Frequency of Visits | Percent Target Area | Percent Boston City | Percent SMSA |
|---|---|---|---|
| No relatives or not ascertained | 18% | 24% | 16% |
| More than once a week | * | 1 | 1 |
| About once a week | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| At least once a month | 13 | 8 | 11 |
| Less than once a month | 68 | 65 | 69 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=101) | (N=302) | (N=1333) |

* Less than 0.5 percent